(319)

GROSS MARGARET A
78 GEORGETOWN 3951

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ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 L-03
H-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SS-15
SSO-00 /053 W

090539 2621537 /14

O 2621307 NOV 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8221
UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 3951
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, UREP, GY
SUBJECT: VERIFYING REMOVAL OF ALL HUMAN REMAINS FROM JONESTOWN SITE
REF: (A) STATE 299112 (B) BUSHNELL/WARD TELCON 11/26/78
FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS KEYED TO PARA 2 OF REFTEL (A):
2. ACTIONS TAKEN BY U.S. MILITARY:
A) UPON ARRIVAL AT SITE, THE JOINT TASK FORCE (JTF) MET WITH NATIONAL POLICE OFFICIALS AND THE COMMANDANT OF THE GDF BATTALION WHO HAD ARRIVED AT THE JONESTOWN SITE SUNDAY NIGHT. THESE OFFICIALS TOOK THE JTF THROUGH THE AREA, EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAD ALREADY SEARCHED EVERY RESIDENCE AND BUILDING, AND POINTED OUT THE LOCATIONS OF THOSE BODIES NOT AMONG THE MAIN GROUP AROUND THE CENTRAL PAVILION. THESE OFFICIALS ALSO PROVIDED THE JTF WITH THE FIRST ESTIMATED COUNT.
B) THE JTF THEN MADE THEIR OWN SEARCH, ENTERING EVERY BUILDING AND COVERING EVERY INCH OF TERRAIN.
C) THE JTF REMOVED THE ISOLATED REMAINS FIRST, BEFORE ADDRESSING THE TASK OF REMOVING THOSE PILED AROUND THE PAVILION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE in PART☐
PA (a) (b) EXEMPTIONS

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D) ALTHOUGH THE PRESENCE OF UNDISCOVERED BODIES WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS FROM THE STRONG ODOR ALONE, THE JTF MADE ANOTHER COMPLETE SWEEP OF ALL BUILDINGS AND THE AREA AFTER ALL BODIES HAD BEEN BAGGED. COL. WILLIAM GORDON, USA, ADVISED THE AMBASSADOR SATURDAY NIGHT THAT A CHECK PRIOR TO FINAL DEPARTURE OF THE JTF DISCLOSED NO REMAINS OR EVIDENCE OF REMAINS OTHER THAN THE FIVE GRAVESITES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.
3. ACTIONS TAKEN BY EMBASSY OFFICERS:
A) CONSULAR OFFICER RICHARD MARTIN WAS AT THE SITE THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. DURING THESE TWO VISITS HE COMBED THE AREA LOOKING FOR ANY IDENTIFIABLE PERSONAL EFFECTS WITH ANY VALUE. HE ENTERED ALL OF THE ADMIN. BUILDINGS IN WHICH BODIES HAD INITIALLY BEEN DISCOVERED, MOST OF THE OTHER RESIDENCES AND ENCOUNTERED NO HUMAN REMAINS.
B) CONSULAR OFFICER JAMES WARD WAS AT THE SITE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, TO MAKE AN ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTENCE OF ANY TANGIBLE PERSONAL ESTATES AND THE FEASIBILITY OF SECURING THEM. DURING THIS EXERCISE HE ENTERED ALL BUILDINGS WHERE BODIES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED, ALL ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCSURES, INCLUDING THE PAVILION, ALL LARGE DORMITORIES AND A NUMBER OF

THE SMALL RESIDENCES. HE DISCOVERED NO HUMAN REMAINS. HE ALSO OBSERVED THE LOADING OF THE LAST REMAINS OF THE TRANSPORT HELICOPTER.
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